AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for managing a password in an optical disc apparatus,

comprising the steps of:

a) determining if a current optical disc has been reproduced previously by the optical disc

apparatus; and

b) requesting a user to enter a first password prescribed by the user if the determining

step (a) determines that the current optical disc has been reproduced previously;

c) requesting the user to enter a unique non-user prescribed second password assigned to

the current optical disc if the determining step (a) determines that the current optical disc has not

been reproduced previously;

d) comparing the entered second password with a password stored in a memory;

e) requesting the user to enter the first password prescribed by the user if the comparing

step (d) result indicates that the entered second password matches the stored password; and

f) storing, in the memory, the entered first password in an associated linking manner with

the second password and disc ID information for the current optical disc.

2. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 1, further comprising:

(c)(g) comparing the entered first password with a password prestored in a first area of a

the memory; and

(d)(h) performing a requested disc operation on the current optical disc if the comparing

step (c)(g) result indicates that the entered first password matches the prestored password.

3. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 2, wherein the determining step

(a) includes:

determining if there exists the disc identifier (ID) information stored in the first area of

the memory, that corresponds to the current optical disc; and

determining that the current optical disc has been reproduced previously by the optical

disc apparatus if the disc ID information exists.

4-5. (Canceled).

6. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 51, further comprising:

(i)(g) performing a requested disc operation on the current optical disc after the storing

step (h)(f).

7. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 51, wherein one single first

password is stored in the first area of the memory in linking association with multiple optical

discs.

8. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 51, wherein a plurality of first

passwords are associated in a linking manner respectively with a plurality of different optical

discs and stored in the first area of the memory.

9. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 2, wherein the ~~first area of the~~ memory is a non-volatile storage ~~area of the~~ memory.

10. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 4~~1~~, wherein the ~~second area of~~ ~~the~~ memory is a temporary storage area ~~of the memory~~.

11. (Canceled).

12. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 4~~1~~, wherein the second password is a disc password unique to the current optical disc.

13. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 4~~1~~, wherein the second password is indicated on a jacket of the current optical disc or is provided over an internet website.

14. (Currently Amended) A method for managing a password in an optical disc apparatus, comprising ~~the steps of~~:

a) determining if a current optical disc has been reproduced previously by the optical disc apparatus; ~~and~~

b) storing disc identifier (ID) information and a disc password for the current optical disc in ~~a non-volatile storage area of~~ a memory in the optical disc apparatus if the determining step (a) determines that the current optical disc has not been reproduced previously; and

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c) requesting the user enter the disc password stored in the memory of the optical disc apparatus and requesting the user enter a user-created password that is associated in a linking manner with the disc password if the disc has not been previously reproduced such that the user can enter the user-created password to again playback the disc.

15. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 14, further comprising:

(c)d) performing a requested disc operation on the current optical disc if the determining step (a) determines that the current optical disc has been reproduced previously.

16. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 15, wherein the performing step (c)(d) is carried out immediately after the determining step (a) if the determining step (a) determines that the current optical disc has been reproduced previously

17. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 14, wherein the determining step (a) includes:

determining if there exists disc identifier (ID) information stored in the non-volatile storage area of the memory, that corresponds to the current optical disc; and

determining that the current optical disc has been reproduced previously by the optical disc apparatus if the disc ID information exists.

18. (Canceled).

19. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim ~~18~~14, wherein the unique disc password is indicated on a jacket of the current optical disc or is provided over an internet website.

20. (Currently Amended) A device for managing a password in an optical disc apparatus, comprising:

~~means for determining~~a controller configured to determine if a current optical disc has been reproduced previously by the optical disc apparatus; and

a ~~non-volatile storage area of a~~ memory ~~for storing~~ configured to store therein disc identifier (ID) information and a disc password for the current optical disc if the ~~means~~controller determines that the current optical disc has not been reproduced previously,

wherein the controller requests the user enter the disc password stored in the memory of the optical disc apparatus and requests the user enter a user-created password that is associated in a linking manner with the disc password if the disc password entered by the user matches the disc password stored in the memory such that the user can enter the user-created password to again playback the disc.

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